

PHARMACY TECHNICIANS prepare medications under the direction of a pharmacist. They measure, mix, count out, label, and record amounts and dosages of medications. They process records of medication and equipment dispensed to hospital patients, compute charges, and enter data in a computer. Technicians count stock and enter data in a computer to maintain inventory records. Technicians who work in hospitals prepare intravenous (IV) packs, using sterile techniques, under the supervision of a hospital pharmacist. They clean equipment and sterilize glassware according to prescribed methods.

### Requirements

- ▲ High school diploma or equivalent.
- ▲ Completion of a two-year associate degree in health, biological, physical or natural sciences. Or, completion of a State board approved Pharmacy Technician training program. Training must consist of a minimum of 240 hours theoretical and practical instruction.
- ▲ Strong mathematics, spelling, and reading skills.
- ▲ No history of drug abuse.
- ▲ Keyboarding skills for computer data entry.
- ▲ Good communication skills.
- ▲ Ability to work independently or as part of a team.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

### Wages

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| ▲ Pharmacy Technicians<br>Median hourly wage: | \$16.08  |
| ▲ Average annual wage:                        | \$33,998 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2006 by EDD/LMID.

## Pharmacy Technicians

### Job Outlook

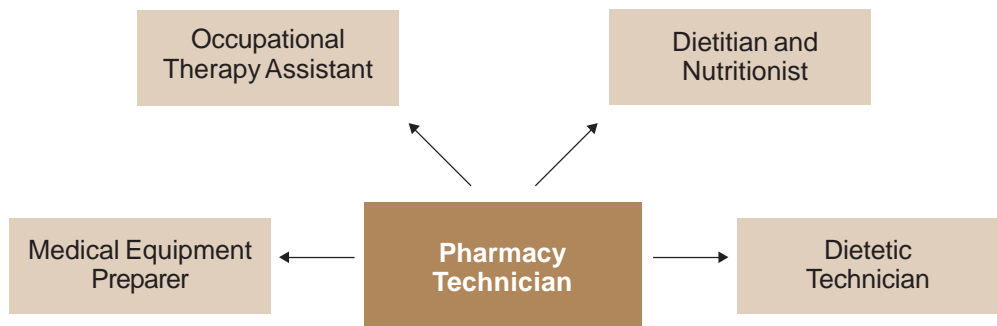
- ▲ Estimated number of Pharmacy Technicians in 2004: 23,900
- ▲ Estimated number of Pharmacy Technicians in 2014: 30,200
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 940

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

### Sources of Information

- ▲ California Board of Pharmacy  
(916) 445-5014  
[www.pharmacy.ca.gov](http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov)
- ▲ California Occupational Guide, No. 456  
Pharmacy Technicians (Hospital)

### Possible Career Paths



*The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.*